

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 14 and 23-29 are pending. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended. Claims 23-29 have been added. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10, 12 and 16-22 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 5, 9 and 27-29 are the independent claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that, *inter alia*, independent claims 1, 5 and 9 are allowed. Previously rejected claims 13 and 14 have been rewritten and are now dependent upon allowed claim 1 and are believed allowable for at least that reason. New dependent claims 23-26 depend variously from allowed claims 5 and 9 and are believed allowable as well at least due to this dependency.

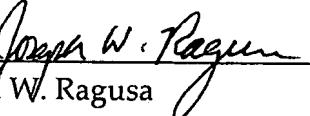
Claims 12-14 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent 6,718,298 (Judge). The cancellation of claims 12 and 19, and the abovementioned amendments to claims 13 and 14 are believed to obviate the present rejection.

New independent claims 27-29 are believed allowable over the prior art for substantially similar reasons to independent claims 1, 5 and 9.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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